

Department of Commerce Growth Management Services Planner's Update

A monthly newsletter to share helpful information related to planning in Washington State

APRIL 2011 – ISSUE 44

Welcome to the Planner's Update, an electronic newsletter from the Department of Commerce, Growth Management Services. We send this newsletter monthly to share helpful information related to planning in Washington State.

Please feel free to send us any comments or ideas for how to make this newsletter more useful. You can also use the link below to provide additional names of planners who might like to subscribe.

Please also consider sharing this newsletter with planning commissioners.



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To subscribe to this newsletter please send e-mail to
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[Short Course Schedule](#)

QUICK LINKS

www.commerce.wa.gov/growth
www.washington-apa.org
www.smartgrowth.org
www.planningpaw.org
www.mrsc.org

1. Commerce to Focus its Growth Management Services on Key Priorities

Like many other local governments and state agencies, Commerce's Growth Management Services program's resources have been reduced significantly in the past two years. As we plan our work program for the coming 2011-2013 biennium, we expect to have less than half the staff and state budget resources than we began the 2009-11 biennium with. To adjust, we must focus our services on key priorities for 2011-13.

Based on continual feedback from local governments, it is clear that one of our priorities must be assistance with planning for local infrastructure needs. We will be focusing our assistance programs in 2011-13 to help local governments carefully prioritize infrastructure needs within their capital facilities plans. We will also help local governments fully consider the potential infrastructure costs of major land use decisions. We will concentrate particularly on assisting smaller jurisdictions that have little or no planning staff.

Because Commerce also has more limited planning staff, we no longer are able to have a staff planner assigned directly to each city and county in the state. Instead, we have re-organized into two teams: an Eastern Washington team located in our Spokane office, and a Western Washington team located in Olympia. [Link to New Planner Jurisdiction Map on our Web Site](#). Each team will be available to respond to planning questions and assist jurisdictions in its region, focusing especially on infrastructure planning issues.

We would like to get your suggestions on how we can best serve you with our re-organized program. As we have in the past, we will be sending you a customer service survey in the coming weeks to help us design our 2011-2013 biennial work program. We welcome your thoughtful comments – they are very important to help us provide resources and assistance that is most useful to cities and counties planning efforts. Thank you!

If you'd like more information on the changes at Growth Management Services, or to provide personal comments, please contact Leonard Bauer at (360) 725-3055 or leonard.bauer@commerce.wa.gov

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2. CLIMATE CHANGE SURVEY COMING SOON

As part of the 2009-2011 state budget, the Legislature asked Commerce to gather updated information regarding how local governments in the following counties are addressing climate change: Clallam, Clark, Jefferson, King, Kitsap, Pierce, Snohomish, Thurston, and Whatcom. We will soon be sending a short survey to those cities and counties, which is largely based on a similar survey Commerce conducted in 2008. We encourage your participation! Commerce will post a summary of survey results on our website when they are available. For more information, contact Joyce Phillips at joyce.phillips@commerce.wa.gov.

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3. HEALTH IMPACT ASSESSMENT GRANTS: ADVANCING SMARTER POLICIES FOR HEALTHIER COMMUNITIES

A Health Impact Assessment (HIA) is defined as "a combination of procedures, methods and tools by which a policy, program or project may be judged as to its potential effects on the health of a population, and the distribution of those effects within the population. An HIA can be applied to policies, planning and projects in a variety of sectors including environmental engineering, energy, climate change, transportation, housing, food and agricultural programs.

A call for proposals has been issued to support organizations that wish to undertake an HIA of a proposed policy, project or program currently or soon to be under active consideration by a decision-making body. Proposals should demonstrate the effectiveness of HIAs and promote their incorporation into local, state, tribal and federal decision-making. Grants range from \$25,000 to \$125,000 and must be completed within 18 months. Please contact your local health department for potential partners. *Application Deadline: June 1, 2011, 5:00 PM.* [More details and how to apply.](#)

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4. THE GOVERNOR'S SMART COMMUNITIES AWARDS

Governor Gregoire has invited nominations for outstanding work by local governments and their partners on community planning and development. The awards have been an annual event since 2006. **Nominations are being sought in the following categories:**

1. *Smart Vision Award for Comprehensive Planning* – Local Governments only are invited to submit nominations in this category.
2. *Smart Choices Award for Implementation of a Comprehensive Plan* – For local governments and other public sector agencies, nominations are sought that show how well a local plan is being carried out.
3. *Smart Partnerships Award for Development Project to Implement a Comprehensive Plan.* The private sector is encouraged to enter in this category.

Request for Nominations for the 2011 Governor's Smart Communities Awards Program - Due May 4, 2011

2011 Nomination Information Sheet - [Instructions and Information about the awards program](#)

2011 Smart Vision Award form - [Submitted for Comprehensive Planning](#)

2011 Smart Choice Award form - [Submitted for Implementation of a Comprehensive Plan](#)

2011 Smart Partnership Award form - [Submitted for Development Project to Implement a Comprehensive Plan](#)

For complete information and nomination forms and to see previous years winners, go to [Governor's Smart Communities website](#)

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5. HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM FUNDING

Grant funding is available under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program for the January 2011 Severe Storm Disaster, as well as for other mitigation grant programs whose funding becomes available again in FY2012 – Pre-Disaster Mitigation, Flood Mitigation Assistance, Repetitive Flood Claims, and Severe Repetitive Loss.

Documents available from the WA Department of Emergency Management describe the application processes for these grant programs, provide an application timeline, fact sheets on each grant program, and Letters of Intent to apply for grant funding.

IMPORTANT! – You must submit a Letter of Intent to be eligible to submit an application for grant funding. After submitting a Letter of Intent (LOI), you will be sent a grant application for HMGP or allowed access to FEMA’s eGrants application platform for other grant programs.

For more information, or if you have any questions, please contact the following individuals:

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